



METROPOLITAN
TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION

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Memorandum

TO: Air Quality Conformity Task Force

DATE: October 14, 2005

FR: Ashley Nguyen

RE: Review of Port of San Francisco Illinois Street Inter-Modal Bridge Facility

MTC staff requests the review of the Port of San Francisco's request to amend the Illinois Street Bridge project into the 2005 TIP (see attached letter and project evaluation below).

Project Definition

The Illinois Street Bridge project is located in the Southern Waterfront area, which extends generally from Mariposa Street to Indian Basin. The proposed Bridge is being constructed across Islais Creek, extending from Illinois Street on the north side of the Creek, one block east of the existing Levon Hagoop Nishkian drawbridge on Third Street. The Bridge allows for combined freight rail, truck/auto traffic, bicycle and pedestrian access, and includes a fully moveable span to maintain access to the west end of Islais Creek for commercial vessels and large recreational boats.

The Bridge project will be completed in three phases: *Phase I*, design and construction of the actual bridge span across Islais Creek, *Phase II*, design and construction of the north approach and roadway to the bridge, and *Phase III*, design and construction of the south approach and roadway to the bridge. Phase I and II have been awarded and will be completed in the fall of 2006. Phase III could be awarded and completed at the same time as Phase I and II.

RTP Status

The Bridge project is included in Transportation 2030 Plan as follows: (RTP ID 22255) "Construct Illinois Street Intermodal Bridge across Islais Creek to connect to Port of San Francisco's Pier 80 cargo terminal." Because this project is in the Transportation 2030 Plan, it was part of the regional emissions analysis and conformity determination for the Transportation 2030 Plan and 2005 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), which was approved jointly by FHWA and FTA on March 17, 2005.

TIP Status

The Bridge project was included in the 2003 TIP as follows: (TIP ID SF-010007) "San Francisco: Islais Creek at southern terminus of Illinois Street; Construct new intermodal bridge for freight traffic across Islais Creek." However, during the 2005 TIP development process, the project was subsequently removed from the TIP because all project funding had been obligated. Recently, the Port received a \$3.2 million federal earmark through SAFETEA as well as \$750,000 in 2005/06 Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Program. Currently, only the bicycle/pedestrian improvements element of this project is identified in the 2005 TIP (TIP ID SF-050023).

Air Quality Conformity Implications

The Bridge project is a non-exempt project that is not regionally significant and therefore has no regional emissions impact. Illinois Street is a local road parallel to Third Street. MTC's normal practice is to not code local streets like Illinois Street into the travel demand model roadway network.

The attached Draft Statewide TIP Amendment Guidelines describe how different types of TIP changes are to be processed and the conformity implications of each. Since the project adds new federal funds to the TIP, the Statewide Guidelines require a formal TIP Amendment and new conformity determination for the TIP.

MTC does not normally re-determine conformity of the TIP or Regional Transportation Plan for single projects between major updates of the TIP/Plan. For this project, if it is decided to proceed with re-determining conformity of the TIP, a new regional emission analysis would not be required, rather a simplified conformity determination would suffice. However, the new conformity determination of the TIP would have to go through the full public review process.

MTC Staff Recommendation

TBD

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